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# Memoir of Colonel Isaac White

of Knox County, Indiana

*By* GEORGE FAUNTLEROY WHITE, grandson of Col. Isaac White

The subject of this sketch, Isaac White, was born in Prince William county, Virginia, shortly after the beginning of the Revolutionary war. The exact year of his birth is not now positively known, but from the record of his initiation, in 1811, as a member of Masonic Lodge, No. 1, of Vincennes, Indiana, in which his age is stated to be 35 years, and from certain interesting family notes written by Mrs. Sarah M. Hayden, which are as yet unpublished, it is altogether likely that he was born in the year 1776. His father, who probably was of English origin, was a man of education and good family, and prior to his settling in Virginia had held a captain's commission in the British merchant marine service. Surrendering this office, he purchased a large tract of land in Prince William county, and successfully devoted himself to farming until the war of the Revolution began, when, taking up arms against the tyranny of the British government, he lost his life near the end of the war nobly fighting for the independence of his adopted country. The old house where this patriot lived—a substantial, roomy, stone structure, indicating in all its arrangements that it was the home of a cultured and hospitable gentleman—is still standing, in an excellent state of preservation, near Brentsville, the county seat of Prince William county. In this house Isaac White was born, as was his elder brother, Thomas, and one younger sister, Katie, and here he continued to live with his mother, assisting her, as he grew in age and experience, in the management of the estate, until he had nearly reached his twenty-fourth year, when an unhappy event in his mother's life impelled him and his brother to seek a new and more adventurous career in the great Northwest territory. It seems that on an occasion when the two sons and all the male servants of the plantation were absent from home, a strange man called at the house and asked for something to eat, a request which, in accordance with the hospitality of those

days, was at once complied with; but not satisfied with this kind of treatment, and seeing only women about, he demanded the keys of the drawers where the family treasure was kept, and on being refused them by Mrs. White, he endeavored by ruffianly violence to take them from her person. Her screams attracted the attention of a neighbor—a bachelor gentleman—who being out on a hunting expedition, and fortunately passing at the time, rushed in and brained the would-be robber on the spot. The gratitude of Mrs. White to her gallant rescuer (who after judicial inquiry was not only exonerated from all blame but extolled for his bravery), and no doubt the appreciation of the gentleman, who was in rather needy circumstances, for Mrs. White's comfortable home and broad acres, brought about in little time a marriage, which, while it may have given happiness to the contracting parties, gave eminent displeasure to the two sons; so much so that they remained with their mother only long enough to see their sister happily and eligibly married, when, without any great superfluity of money, they bade adieu to the old homestead, and made their way to Vincennes, soon afterwards to be the seat of government of Indiana territory. This was in the beginning of 1800.

Naturally the advent of an enterprising man—handsome, brave, well-bred, and full of spirit, such as young White was at this time—was calculated to create some little excitement in any village of a sparsely settled country; and so it did at Vincennes. He won his way at once to the hearts of everybody whose goodwill was worth having. Not only was he welcomed by the elders of the village, but he was a special favorite with the young ladies. In Mrs. Hayden's unpublished notes, before referred to, the following statement occurs regarding the family of Judge George Leech, then living at Vincennes, and particularly of his eldest daughter, Sallie, who soon became young White's wife. Mrs. Hayden's statement is substantially a repetition of the artless recital of her mother, formerly Miss Amy Leech, a sister of Sallie, and the wife of Hon. John Marshall, for many years the president of the Bank of Illinois at Shawneetown:

Their eldest daughter, Sallie, Mrs. Hayden says, was now approaching a marriageable age, and her beauty and loveliness of manner attracted the attention and won the affections of a young Virginian, who had recently moved to their vicinity, Mr. Isaac White. Like the natives of his

state, he had a courtly, aristocratic bearing, which some of the country people, in their inaccurate dialect, called pompous. He was quite a beau, and considered the best prize in the matrimonial field at that time. But while he rode with, and visited, and went to the simple merry-makings of the day with ——— and other gay and dashing girls, it was not from among them that he cared to select a wife. He required in the one who should be the companion of a life-time the tender graces of a truer womanhood. Many were surprised that this modest unassuming girl should have won the love of so gallant a young man, or that, with his aspirations, he should have been willing to marry a poor girl. It was a source of gratification to the parents that their sweet wild-wood blossom had made so excellent a match, and they accordingly set to work to do the best they possibly could in the momentous affair.

Mrs. Hayden says further:

A wedding-dinner was prepared, to which most all the people of the surrounding country were invited; but mother smilingly added, when narrating this (alluding to the smallness of the population), that the guests were not very numerous after all. I do not know who officiated, but presume Judge Luke Decker, because when my mother was married, a few years later, grandfather wished to have him perform the ceremony; but she refused, preferring her own father, who was then a judge of probate.

The gentleman, Judge George Leech, into whose family Isaac White thus entered, had emigrated to Vincennes from Louisville, Kentucky, with his brother Francis and other relatives and friends, in the year 1784, and they had all selected homesteads in Knox county; but after a three-years' sojourn, and owing to Indian depredations and barbarities (Judge Leech having his house burned over his head by them), and all, with the exception of Francis Leech, who had died, moved back to Louisville. Nine years later, in 1796, Judge Leech again emigrated to Vincennes; but the governor of the Northwest territory refused him permission to reoccupy the land on which he had formerly lived, although it was still vacant, and he was therefore compelled to occupy the land which had belonged to his brother. Afterwards, when Gen. William Henry Harrison was appointed governor of Indiana territory, Judge Leech was granted 100 acres more, and this tract, which he gave as a marriage present to his daughter, and which is now a part of what is known as the White-Hall farm in Knox county, was the nucleus of a very considerable estate, which Colonel White acquired after his marriage.

Like all pioneers in a new country, Isaac White and his wife

had plenty of hardships to encounter; but they had also the sympathy and friendship of their neighbors—characteristics that are so often met among people who have left the comforts of civilization to brave the privations of new life in the forest or on the prairie. An illustration of the friendly help which the settlers in a new country are so ready to give one another when necessary is shown in the fact that on one occasion when the home of the Whites was burned to the ground, their friends and neighbors from all parts of the county, with one accord “pitched in,” to use the vernacular of the west, and in a few weeks reared them a larger, more substantial, and altogether more comfortable home (of hewn logs, be it understood) than the one that had been burned. In this house the eldest child of the young couple, George W. L. White, was born; here they bravely struggled year after year for the advancement of their earthly interests, not forgetting their spiritual ones; and here they enjoyed that happiness which, whether in the log-house or in the palace, can come only from love and the exercise of virtue and industry. They were reckoned among the best people of the territory, and their friendliness of character, charity, and public spirit were conspicuous traits. Among others, they became friends of Governor Harrison and his family, and the friendship thus begun was transmitted to their children.

A striking evidence of this friendship of the governor is shown in his appointment of Mr. White as agent of the United States at the salt works on Saline creek, in Illinois, contiguous to the present village of Equality, in Gallatin county. The following is a copy of this appointment:

INDIANA TERRITORY.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the  
Indiana Territory,

(Seal.) To all who shall see these presents, Greeting:

Know ye, that in pursuance of instructions from the President of the United States, I have constituted and appointed, and do by these presents constitute and appoint, Isaac White, of Knox county, to be agent for the United States, to reside at the Salt Works on Saline Creek, for the purpose of receiving and selling the salt, and to perform such other acts and things as the government of the United States may think proper to charge him with. This commission to continue during pleasure.

Given under my hand and the seal of the territory, at Vincennes, this

30th day of April, 1805, and of the Independence of the United States the twenty-ninth.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

By the Governor:

JNO. GIBSON, Secretary.

Among the persons employed by Isaac White, in his capacity of government agent of these salt works, was John Marshall, a man of the most sterling character, and who afterwards, as a banker, acquired a great reputation both in Indiana and Illinois. In the following year their connection became closer still—Marshall having married Mrs. White's younger sister, Amy Leech. The following reference to this interesting event occurs in Mrs. Hayden's notes before mentioned:

The marriage occurred on the 21st of October, 1806, and accompanied by Colonel White and her sister (Mrs. White), they—that is, young Marshall and his bride—set out next day for the salt works, where their home was to be for the present—he (Marshall) being employed as book-keeper by Colonel White.

Mrs. Hayden has unconsciously fallen into a slight anachronism in referring here to Isaac White as "colonel". He had not as yet reached that honor, but he had, a little more than a month before, been appointed a captain of the Knox county militia, as the following copy of his commission will show:

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Indiana Territory, to ISAAC WHITE, Esq., of the County of Knox, Greeting:

Reposing special trust and confidence in your fidelity, courage, and good conduct, I have appointed you a captain of a company in the —— battalion of the —— regiment of the militia of the County of Knox, and you are hereby appointed accordingly. You are, therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of a captain, in leading, ordering and exercising the said company in arms, both inferior officers and soldiers, and to keep them in good order and discipline; and they are hereby commanded to obey you as their captain, and you, yourself, to observe and follow such orders and instructions as you shall from time to time receive from me or your superior officers.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto caused the seal of the territory to be affixed the eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the thirty-first.

(Territorial Seal.)

WILLM. HENRY HARRISON.

By the Governor's command:

JNO. GIBSON, Secretary.

(Endorsement): Wm. H. Harrison to Isaac White. Commission in militia. Captain.

On the 10th day of September, 1806, personally came before me the within-named Isaac White, and had administered unto him the oath to support the Constitution of the U. S.

WILLM. H. HARRISON.

ISAAC WHITE, Esq. Captain. Militia. Knox County.

How long the salt-works agency lasted cannot be stated; it is presumed not very long, however, for, from the papers now in the hands of Colonel White's descendants, it would seem probable that, under a statute of the United States then in existence—the act of congress of March 3, 1803—which authorized the leasing of salt springs belonging to the government, Colonel White had in 1807 acquired a private interest in the salt works, which he held until shortly before his death, finally disposing of it, with other business interests, to Wilkes, Taylor & Co., and returning to Vincennes. As lessee of the springs, he acquired considerable wealth, the manufacture of salt being quite lucrative, and the celebrated Kanawha salt springs in Virginia not being then discovered, so that the Illinois works supplied the whole territory.

While residing at these salt works Colonel White had two daughters born to him—Harriet Grandison, on June 12, 1808, and Juliet Grenville, on July 30, 1810. While there, also, he was appointed a colonel, probably in the militia of Illinois territory, which was organized under the act of congress of February 3, 1809. The commission of Colonel White is unfortunately lost, but the evidence of his having received it is conclusive, and, indeed, undisputed.

An incident occurred some time after his appointment as colonel which shows at once the tenderness of the love he bore to his family and his coolness and courage. It seems that, unlike most Virginians of that age, he was morally opposed to duelling; but, like most men of the present day, he felt that occasions may arise when that mode of settling grievances is alone possible. Such an occasion actually arose in his life, and the preparations he made to meet it are partly told in the following letter to his wife, written a day or two after a brief visit to his family, who were then at Vincennes:

United States Saline, May 23, 1811.

Dear and Loving Wife: I got home this day about ten o'clock, after

a great deal of fatigue and danger with the high water. I had liked to have strangled in the North Forke.

When you receive this I expect I shall be mingled with the dust. The day after to-morrow I am to fight a duel with Captain Butler. He gave the first insult, and on my retorting he challenged me. I accepted it. We are to fight at six feet distance, and I expect we both will fall. But death to me has not the terrors that it is represented to have.

I am very anxious for the welfare of you and my dear children. O, did you but know the pangs I felt at parting with you and them. When my poor little son cried, I had hard work to smother my grief. You, I have no doubt, will be tender and kind to them; try and keep me in their remembrance. I have left you the negroes, and have tried to induce John Justice to stay with you until he is of age. You will have to sell Sukey and the children. Bob will stay with you his life-time. With the money you get for Sukey and children you can buy you one that is held in slavery in the Territory. I think that you had better have the house finished and live to yourself. I shall leave everything in the care of your brother Francis, who, I have no doubt, will act with tenderness and care towards you.

My sword, epaulettes, and watch and dirk I want left to George. In making my will I was actuated by the best of motives, and if I have not left you as much as you think I ought to have left you, you will forgive me when you reflect that what has not been left to you I leave to your children, with a small exception. I repeat, again, \* \* I cannot say more on the subject. So farewell, my dearest, forever! I am yours,

ISAAC WHITE.

TO SALLY WHITE.

Kiss George, Harriet and Juliet a thousand times for me.

The meeting which Colonel White speaks of in the above letter actually took place, according to agreement between the parties, at a place now called Union Springs, in Kentucky, opposite Shawneetown; but the result of it was rather different from what he expected. Both parties were on time; but when the seconds finally announced that the weapons selected were horse-pistols and the distance six feet, the challenging party protested that such an arrangement was murderous, and gave no chance for life on either side. Colonel White's friends and himself, however, were determined, and insisted on the arrangement, when the challenger left the field, whole in body, and no doubt less inclined to offer challenges thereafter.

It will be noticed in the letter of Colonel White, and also in his will, which is hereto appended, that he speaks of his slaves, and advises his wife to purchase others—a circumstance that at first blush appears a little singular, in view of the fact that, by the celebrated Ordinance of 1787, slavery or in-



voluntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, was forever prohibited in the Northwest territory, or in any territories or states to be formed out of it. It is an historical fact, however, that notwithstanding this great law, which is an enduring monument to the wisdom and humanity of the legislative body that enacted it, slavery continued to exist in the Northwest territory, and especially in Indiana, for many years. Indeed, we find from Dillon's *History of Indiana* that the first legislative convention called by Governor Harrison in 1802 was mainly for the purpose of petitioning congress to revoke the Ordinance of 1787 so far as it related to slavery—a petition which no doubt was fully approved of by the governor, but which, after an able report from the illustrious John Randolph, of Virginia, against it, was emphatically denied. Even when it became impossible, as it did afterwards, to enforce slavery in Indiana, many negroes were held under indenture for long terms of years, which practically amounted to slavery, and many, from mere habit, or by their own consent, continued substantially in that condition. One of these latter cases Colonel White refers to in his letter.

Shortly after Colonel White's sale of his interest in the Illinois salt works and his return to Vincennes, he had been initiated and passed as an apprentice and fellow-craft mason in the Masonic lodge at Vincennes, then under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and on the 18th of September, 1811, he was raised to the degree of a Master Mason by his friend, the celebrated Colonel Jo. Daviess, Grand Master of Kentucky, who had come to Vincennes to offer his services to General Harrison in an expected campaign against the confederation of Indians which Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet, were industriously endeavoring to form as a means of preventing the further advance of white settlements. The troubles arising out of the machinations of these two chiefs had then reached a point when active measures by the territorial authorities became imperative, and Harrison, determining that an invasion of the Indian country was necessary, was busy with his preparations therefor. In the force that was to be raised for this expedition, Colonel White had earnestly requested to have his regiment included, or at least as much of it as could be readily made available; but General Harrison,

feeling that, with the regular troops he had ordered to Vincennes, enough militia was already on hand to serve his purposes, and indeed not being certain that any severe fighting would be necessary, felt compelled to decline the request. Colonel White was not the man, however, to give up, for this reason, his determination to take part in the expedition. With the consent of his friend Colonel Daviess, he enrolled himself as a private in the battalion of dragoons which Harrison had placed under that officer's command, and when the expedition started, on the 26th of September—eight days after he had been made a Master Mason—White accompanied it.

An affecting incident in connection with the enlistment of Colonel White was an exchange of swords between him and Colonel Daviess—an exchange to which fate gave an awful solemnity when, afterwards, on the field of Tippecanoe, the weapon of White was found buckled to the belt of Daviess, and the sword of Daviess was held in the iron grip of his friend.

It will be remembered that the expedition of General Harrison, which culminated in the victory of Tippecanoe, left Vincennes on the 26th of September, 1811, and that on the afternoon of the 6th of November following, the little army encamped on the banks of Burnet's creek, seven miles north of the present city of Lafayette, and a short distance from the Prophet's town, where a large body of Indians were supposed to be on the war-path. The battle began early on the morning of the 7th by a sudden attack of the Indians on that portion of the camp where Daviess and his battalion were stationed. Part of the fire of the Indians, proceeding from a clump of trees some distance in front, was so deadly that Daviess was ordered to dislodge them, which, at the head of a detachment of twenty picked men from his force, he at once proceeded gallantly to do; but, unhappily, his ardor was too great, and the little force with him, which included Colonel White, was driven back, Daviess and his friend both being mortally wounded. They died upon the battle-field and were buried side by side—the temporary inequality of rank, of which the noble nature of both men had hardly suffered them to be conscious, being thus forever removed.

At a public installation of the officers of a Masonic lodge at Evansville many years ago, Hon. John Law, in a closing

address to the lodge, made the following reference to the death of these two brave men, which, though inaccurate in its statement that Daviess came to Vincennes in command of a corps of mounted Kentucky rangers, and that Colonel White commanded a regiment at the battle of Tippecanoe, is sufficiently interesting to quote in this place:

On the 18th day of September, 1811, Judge Law said, Joseph H. Daviess, grand master of the grand lodge of Kentucky, came to Vincennes, commanding a corps of mounted rangers, then on their route to the battlefield of Tippecanoe, where the battle was fought with the Indians in November of the same year, and where Daviess was killed while making a brilliant and unsuccessful charge on his savage foes. His remains now rest, where they properly should, on the bloody field where he fought so bravely, and where, after the battle, I saw them nearly half a century since, deposited under a majestic oak of the forest near where he fell, on the soil of Indiana, fattened with the best blood of our people, and mingled with that of our friends and neighbors from the south side of the Ohio, who came to our assistance, and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude which should never be forgotten to the latest generation. The county of Daviess was named after him. While at Vincennes with his regiment he acted as master of the lodge there, and conferred the degree of Master Mason on Col. Isaac White, the grandfather of our esteemed friend, Isaac White, now a citizen of Evansville, and named after him. Colonel White also commanded a regiment from Knox county, and fell on the same field. It is a singular fact that these noble men, the master and neophyte—he who gave the masonic degree of master mason, and he who received it—in less than two months after, fell on the same battlefield, killed by the same foe, and were buried side by side, with their martial cloaks around them. Two more noble men or braver soldiers, or true and faithful brethern of the order, never sacrificed their lives in the defence of their country. May we not hope and believe that both these true and loyal brothers have been transferred from earth to haven?

Lieutenant George Leech, the brother-in-law of Colonel White, and who was a participant in the battle, is also authority for the statement that Daviess and White were buried side by side, under an oak tree which he had marked, but which an inability to revisit the battle-ground had afterwards prevented him from permanently identifying.

Colonel White was in the 36th year of his age when he died. He was widely known, and universally beloved. Liberal and charitable—not the least bit penurious or avaricious—he yet amassed a considerable fortune for that day, his lands amounting to several thousand acres, and his personal property being not insignificant. His character was without re-

proach—treachery and cowardice, deceit, and all forms of meanness, being hateful to him. A loving husband and father, a kind and steadfast friend, a good and enterprising citizen, and a patriotic and gallant soldier—he, like hundreds of others of the pioneers of Indiana, who settled within her borders to hew their way to fame and fortune, has left a name which should not be permitted to be soon forgotten. This, indeed, is not likely to happen; for two great states—Indiana and Illinois—in order to perpetuate his memory, have, as will appear from the historical notices below, given his name to two prosperous counties within their respective borders.

He left a widow, who in 1816 married again, her second husband being Samuel Marshall, the brother of John Marshall; but she died three years later, in 1819. He also left three children—Geogre Washington Leech White, afterwards a prominent citizen of Indiana, who by commission from Governor Coles, of Illinois, served as lieutenant-colonel and aide-de-camp to Major-General Willis Hargraves in the Black-Hawk war; Harriet Grandison White, who married Albert Gallatin Sloo, at White Hall farm, in Knox county; and Juliet Greenville White, who married James Huffman. From Colonel White's son, who married Miss Eliza Griffin Fauntleroy, of Kentucky, are descended Colonel George Fauntleroy White, now a citizen of Knox county (who has participated in two wars, the Mexican war and the late War of the Rebellion), and Dr. Isaac T. White, for many years a prominent citizen of Evansville, Indiana. From the eldest daughter of Colonel White are descended, among others, Major A. G. Sloo, now clerk of the Knox county circuit court, his brother, Thomas Sloo, a citizen of the same county, and his sister, Sarah E. Sloo, who married Col. Francis E. McIlvaine, Mary Frances Sloo, who married her cousin, Col. Geo. F. White, before mentioned, Juliet White Sloo, who married R. M. Corwine, and Harriet White Sloo, who is still unmarried—the father of all these being Colonel Albert G. Sloo, who in his day, as a man of immense enterprise and at one time of great wealth, was known from one end of the United States to the other.

The following notices concerning Colonel White will perhaps give some further idea of his standing at the time of his death.

From the *Indiana Gazetteer* of 1849, page 106, "Battle of Tippecanoe":

Among the slain, who were much lamented, were Maj. Daviess and Col. Owen, of Ky.; Capt. Spencer, and his lieutenants, McMahan and Berry; Capt. Warrick, and Col. White, then superintendent of the United States Saline lands, near Shawneetown; and Thos. Randolph, Esq., former Attorney-General of the Territory. The two latter served merely as privates on this occasion.

From Dillon's *History of Indiana*, page 471:

At the Battle of Tippecanoe the loss of the army under the command of General Harrison amounted to 37 killed in the action, and 151 wounded, of which 25 afterwards died of their wounds. Colonel Joseph Hamilton Daviess, \* \* \* and Colonel Isaac White, were among those who were killed or mortally wounded in the battle.

From General Harrison's letter to the Indiana House of Representatives quoted at page 477 of Dillon's *History of Indiana*:

I cannot believe that you have the smallest tincture of that disposition, which certainly elsewhere prevails, to disparage the conduct of the militia, and to deprive them of their share of the laurels which have been so dearly purchased by the blood of some of our best and bravest citizens. No! I can never suppose that it was your intention to insult the shades of Spencer, McMahan, and Berry, by treating with contempt the corps which their deaths have contributed to immortalize: nor will I believe that a Daviess, a White, a Randolph, and a Mahan have been so soon forgotten, or that the corps to which they belonged, and which faithfully performed its duty, was deemed unworthy of your notice. The omission was certainly occasioned by a mistake; but it is a mistake by which, if not rectified, the feelings of a whole country, and part of another, now abounding with widows and orphans, the unhappy consequences of the late action, will be wounded and insulted.

From the *Indiana Gazetteer* of 1849, page 433:

White County, Indiana, organized in 1834, was named in honor of Col. Isaac White, of Gallatin county, Illinois, who volunteered his services as a private in the Tippecanoe campaign, and fell at the side of Major Daviess in the battle.

From the *Black Hawk and Mexican War Record*, prepared and published under authority of the 32nd General Assembly, by Isaac H. Elliott, Adjutant-General of the State of Illinois, page 320:

The Prophet's attack on General Harrison with a force of over 700 men, under cover of darkness, and his ultimate defeat and flight, with

a serious loss of killed and wounded, is a part of the history of our country which concerns us only, as our Illinois troops participated in the victory. This battle, which took place on the 6th day of November, 1811, cost the lives of 37 killed outright and 25 mortally wounded, who afterwards died, and these were the very flower of the young settlers of Indiana and Illinois Territories. Among the killed in this battle was Captain Isaac White—for whom White county (Illinois) was afterwards named—who commanded a company of Illinois troops raised in Saline county, of which we possess no roll. Here also fell Major Joe Daviess, whose name is also perpetuated in the county of that name; and of the others whose names are not recorded—nor have they been perpetuated—we can only say they did their duty bravely, and the sacrifice of their own lives saved those of hundreds of women and children who might otherwise have fallen ready victims to the cruelty of the vicious savages.

From an address delivered by John Lagow, Esq., an honorable and respected citizen of seventy years' standing, at the Old Settlers' meeting at Vincennes, May 30, 1878:

I have seen Tecumseh often, and his brother, the Prophet. They were shrewd Indians. I knew many of the men that fought at the battle of Tippecanoe who were badly wounded; for instance, old Tom White, a very clever old gentleman. He was shot through the breast and had a silk handkerchief drawn through it frequently to cleanse it before it healed. He got well and lived many years after. \* \* \* He, too, was the man who killed Pependick, a very bad Indian at Fort Harrison, who had threatened his life if he ever saw him outside of the fort.

Mr. Lagow further said:

Tom White's brother, Colonel Isaac White, a very brave and noble man, the father of George W. L. White, and father-in-law of the late Albert G. Sloo, Esq., was killed in the battle of Tippecanoe.

Letter of Judge John Law to Isaac T. White, dated July 19, 1867:

Evansville, Ind., July 19, 1867.

To Dr. ISAAC T. WHITE,

My Dear Sir: In examining the records of the Vincennes Lodge, No. 1, which was the first lodge ever instituted in Indiana, and I might with truth say from the Miami river to the Pacific ocean (the lodge was organized at Vincennes, September 1, 1808), I find that Col. Joseph H. Daviess, grand master of the grand lodge of Kentucky (the lodge at Vincennes then being under the jurisdiction of the grand lodge of Kentucky), was at Vincennes, and that on the 18th of September, 1811 (two months before the battle of Tippecanoe), he presided over the lodge at Vincennes.

I further find that on September 19, 1811, as master of the lodge, he conferred the degree of Master Mason on your grandfather, Isaac White.

It is a little singular that in two months afterwards your grandfather, who received the degree, and Colonel Daviess, who conferred it, should both have fallen on the battle-field of Tippecanoe. I think it is a circumstance worthy of remembrance, by his descendants, and probably unknown to them.

Very truly yours, JOHN LAW.

The following is a copy of the will of Colonel White, which, giving as it does, some indication of the extent of his possessions, and conveying indirect information concerning the existence of slavery in Indiana, is of both personal and historical interest. In connection with this will there are two circumstances, to which special attention may not inappropriately be called. The first is that it was written by Colonel White himself, which, considering its lawyer-like accuracy and precision, gives some idea of his education and business intelligence; the second is that it was written on the same day as was the letter to his wife, hereinbefore quoted—a fact which, remembering that he was on the eve of a duel, that he had every reason to believe would result fatally to himself, shows his coolness and perfect self-possession:

In the name of God, Amen! I, Isaac White, of the United States Saline, do make, ordain, and declare this instrument, which is signed with my own hand, to be my last will and testament, declaring at the same time that it is the first and only one that I have made.

All my debts, of which there are but few and none of magnitude are to be punctually paid, and the legacies bequeathed are to be discharged as soon as circumstances will permit, and in the manner directed hereinafter.

To my dearly beloved wife, Sarah White, I give and bequeath all my household and kitchen furniture, all my stock and farming utensils, and all my negroes, except as is hereafter expected, to her and her heirs forever. I also give to her during her natural life the tract of land which I purchased of Daniel Smith and George Leech, containing two hundred acres; but if she, my wife, accedes to this my will, it is also my will that she shall raise my three children, George Washington White, Harriet G. White, and Juliet G. White, without any expense to my estate, except so much as will pay for their schooling.

It is my will that my son George have a classical education; that he may be taught fencing and dancing; and that he may be sent one year to a military school; and that after he be so taught, he be allowed to follow the profession or occupation that he himself may choose. It is further my will that my daughters Harriet and Juliet have a good English education.

I give and bequeath to my son, George Washington White, all my es-

tate, real and personal (except that part which I have given to my wife and is hereafter excepted), he paying to his sister Harriet, at the time she becomes of age or gets married, fifteen hundred dollars, and unto his sister Juliet one thousand dollars at the time she becomes of age or gets married, after paying for their schooling.

I give and bequeath to my nephews, Charles White and John Justice, a tract of land containing four hundred and sixty-four acres and seventy poles, one moiety to each of them, to be so divided according to quality and quantity, providing that after John Justice goes to school this year, he goes home and continues to live with his aunt, Sarah White, until he is twenty-one years of age; if not, the moiety that was intended for him to revert back to George Washington White.

I give and bequeath to my niece, Betsy White, one mare, saddle and bridle, to be worth one hundred dollars in cash, to be paid when she becomes of age or gets married.

Should it happen that any of the legatees except George W. White should die before they are by this my last will to receive their legacies, than then and in that case the whole of the said legacies are to revert to the said George W. White. But should it please God that he should die before he comes of age, or after he becomes of age without issue, I will that then and in that case the whole of the estate, both real and personal, is to be divided equally between his sisters, Harriet G. and Juliet G. White.

I give and bequeath to Francis Leech all my books, maps, and backgammon table.

It is further my will that my executors collect all the debts that are due me, together with what may hereafter become due, and after paying my debts, &c., to vest the balance in bank stock.

Should Thomas White wish to improve the tract of land which I have given to his son Charles, I hereby request that my executors devise it in the manner before mentioned.

I give and bequeathed to George Leech, junior, my two-year-old colt called the Phaeton.

I constitute George Leech, John Marshall, and Francis Leech, or any two of them, executors of this my last will and testament.

In witness of all and each of the things herein contained, I have set my hand and seal this 23d day of May, 1811.

The tract of land which I have bequeathed my nephews, Charles White and John Justice, lies on the south side of White river, and is the one I purchased of Toussaint Dubois.

In presence of

ISAAC WHITE.

G. C. HARLT,  
FRANCIS LEECH.